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Letter dated 25 May 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I wish to draw your attention to the remarks by Ehud Barak, Defense Minister of the Israeli regime, as reported by international media on 23 May 2012, wherein he unwarrantedly and under erroneous and false presumptions on Iran's peaceful nuclear activities, threatened the use of force against the Islamic Republic of Iran by signalling the likelihood of an Israeli attack on Iran's nuclear facilities and saying that "nuclear Iran is intolerable and no options should be taken off the table". In this regard, I would like to state the following:

The Islamic Republic of Iran expresses its deep concern over and strong condemnation of such a provocative, unwarranted and irresponsible statement by the Israeli regime's Defense Minister as well as other officials of that regime, which has frequently threatened Iran with a military strike. Such statements are in flagrant violation of the most fundamental provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the basic principles of international law, and are against the global efforts to strengthen regional and international peace and security.

Iran is a leading nation in rejecting and opposing all kinds of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. As a State party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Islamic Republic of Iran has on many occasions, including in relevant international forums, officially declared that nuclear weapons, as the most lethal and inhumane weapons, have no place in the defence doctrine of the country. Furthermore, since 1974, Iran has spared no efforts in the realization of the nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East within the United Nations framework and the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conferences.

I wish also to reiterate my Government's position that the Islamic Republic of Iran has no intention to initiate any attack against other nations. Nonetheless, in accordance with its inherent right under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, Iran would not hesitate to act in self-defence to respond to any attack against the Iranian nation and to take appropriate defensive measures to protect itself.

It is ironic, however, that such inflammatory remarks and baseless allegations against Iran's peaceful nuclear programme are uttered by officials of a regime that has an unparalleled record of crimes and atrocities amounting to crimes against humanity and whose clandestine development and unlawful possession of nuclear weapons are the unique threat to regional as well as international peace and security.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammad **Khazaee**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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